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Wednesday, April 27,
2011

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News worth
sharing.

Charge in doubt at retrial

► Former corporal Matthew Wilcox was found guilty in July 2009 of criminal negligence causing death and negligent performance of a military duty in the death of Cpl. Kevin Megeney of Stellarton

A military judge reserved his decision yesterday on a defence request to drop a manslaughter charge against a former soldier charged in the fatal shooting of a fellow reservist in Afghanistan.

A lawyer for Matthew Wilcox of Glace Bay argued that the manslaughter charge should not proceed because it was stayed at his client's first court martial.

The Court Martial Appeal Court

of Canada set aside Wilcox's guilty verdict last year after his lawyers argued the makeup of a military jury was unfair. The court ordered a new trial in the death of Megeney, who died after he was shot in his

tent in Kandahar on March 6, 2007.

As the new court martial got underway yesterday, defence lawyer David Bright said the manslaughter charge was put before the original trial as an alter-

native to the charge of criminal negligence causing death.

He added there are no legal grounds that allow the judge to bring back the manslaughter charge. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



► A pedestrian passes a mural on Barrington Street as she braves the rain yesterday. This week's forecast says more rain is on the way until a sunny break on Saturday.

TERRA CIOFFE/FOR METRO

Keep those umbrellas and rain boots handy

Special

Time to tee it up again

► Metro's golf guide helps you get back into the swing of things {pages 19-23}

Courting face to face

Q chief plans to meet family of top prospect MacKinnon {page 24}

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news



Machines at Portland gym produce electricity while you burn calories. Scan code for story.

- 1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com
- 2 Use your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro
- 3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to m.metronews.ca

On the web at metronews.ca



Country music legend Emmylou Harris dedicates a new song to late Montreal musician Kate McGarrigle. Video at metronews.ca



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Reading Recovery gets replacement

► N.S. to save approximately \$2M a year with substitute for program

TERRA CIOFFE/FOR METRO



► Education Minister Ramona Jennex colours with primary student Shanice Carvery-Vidito at St. Catherine's School yesterday.



ALEX BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Education Minister Ramona Jennex revealed the NDP government's replacement for Reading Recovery yesterday.

The new provincial initiative, called Succeeding in Reading, aims to expand the number of children benefiting from early reading intervention while reducing the resources devoted to it.

Under the new framework, 39 full-time equivalent positions will be created to service 97

schools within the Halifax Regional School Board. These "literacy specialists" will be in schools full time, some at a number of smaller schools, supplementing the efforts of the classroom teachers.

In addition, the literacy specialists will provide assistance to more children. Although the province isn't sure how many, it is expected to be more than the 2,300 under the previous program.

The focus will shift from one-on-one assistance outside the classroom to group work inside, with literacy spe-

"This framework provides daily intervention for literacy development within the classroom."

EDUCATION MINISTER
RAMONA JENNEX

cialists working with a number of children while regular lessons continue.

"With the older model, not all children were captured, it was a very small number," said Jennex. "This is opening it up to be able to provide more children the support that

they need if they're struggling with reading and writing."

Karen Casey, the Liberal's education critic, said the new plan might be fixing something that wasn't broken.

"It's a lot of talk, but any plan is only as good as the implementation," said Casey. "We certainly have some very good programs and initiatives in place in our schools now. To me it's really a step back."

The new framework is expected to cost \$5 million, \$2 million less than the Reading Recovery model.

Rock band INXS to visit Halifax

Australian rock group INXS will be banging out all their hits alongside Nova Scotia's own JD Fortune in Halifax this July.

Promoting their latest album *Original Sin*, the band will perform at the Cunard Centre on July 5 at 8 p.m.

Tickets go on sale Friday, April 29 at 9 a.m. and cost \$49.50. Only ages 19 and older are permitted.

● ALY THOMSON

Speeding up liquor licence application

The NDP government is attempting to streamline the process of applying for liquor licences in Nova Scotia.

Service Nova Scotia Minister John MacDonnell put forward legislation yesterday that transfers responsibility for approving licences from the Utility and Review Board to his department.

The move is expected to save the government approximately \$225,000 per year by cutting down on unnecessary public hearings should no complaints be launched.

The public can still object to the granting of the licence, but hearings will only be held if an objection is made.

● ALEX BOUTILIER

Outbreaks at QEII hospital

The QEII hospital is restricting visitors due to a couple of outbreaks.

Some patients on the sixth floor of the Abbie J. Lane Building have symptoms of a Norovirus-like illness. Also some patients in unit 4B at the Victoria General Site and to residents of the sixth floor of Camp Hill Veterans' Memorial Building have respiratory illnesses and visits are being restricted.

● METRO

Gas stolen from pick-up trucks

Thieves are drilling holes specifically in large pick-up trucks to steal gas.

Six incidents have been identified in the RCMP jurisdiction since March 14.

The most recent cases occurred Monday morn-

ing at 3 a.m. and 4 a.m. on Lundy Drive in Cole Harbour. In both cases, holes were drilled into the gas tanks. RCMP spokesman Sgt. Bridgit Leger said investigators believe the two incidents are con-

nected.

Leger said the other four incidents occurred in the Musquodoboit Harbour region. All six vehicles targeted were full-sized pick-up trucks.

● ALY THOMSON

Truck targets

► Cost "As you can appreciate with the rising cost of fuel, (pick-up trucks) are becoming a target for thieves," says RCMP spokesman Sgt. Bridgit Leger.

Can NDP upset Grits again?

► New Democrat Gregor Ash, Conservative Bruce Pretty, both first-time candidates in Halifax West riding ► Longtime MP Geoff Regan boasts experience, quashes Harper's 'American-style politics'



ALY THOMPSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

Incumbent Geoff Regan has held Halifax West, off and on, for the past 17 years.

The Liberal candidate was first elected in 1993, lasting four years until he was unseated by the NDP's Gordon Earle. Regan recaptured the seat in the following election, and has held it since.

The riding includes Bedford, extending down through Hammonds Plains to Terence Bay in the south. Elections Canada lists its population at 88,756, of which just under 70,000 are eligible to vote.

In 2008, voter turnout was 59.1 per cent.

Regan easily carried the riding in 2008, with 41 per cent of the vote.

The NDP have maintained a strong presence

over the past decade, however, consistently polling in the mid- to high 20s. That support is something NDP candidate Gregor Ash is looking to capitalize on.

Conservative Dr. Bruce Pretty is a first-time candidate but is not unfamiliar to the party. A past president of the Halifax West Conservative Association in the previous Halifax St. Margaret's riding, Pretty has put his 33 years as an eye surgeon on hold.

The Conservatives have hovered around 20 per cent of the vote for the past three elections, losing to the NDP in all cases.

Green party candidate Thomas Trappenberg, a university professor, was absent for the last election but ran in 2006 for Halifax West, winning about three per cent of the vote. Trappenberg is hoping to maintain the support the Greens gained in the last election — about seven per cent.

TERRA CIOLEFF/FOR METRO



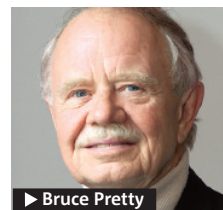
► In 2008, Liberal incumbent Geoff Regan won 41 per cent of the vote in the Halifax West riding.

Meet the candidates



► Gregor Ash

NDP Age: 43
Experience in politics: This is my first run for office but I've dealt with different levels of government for 11 years.
What do people not know about you? I can't stand being late. I'm usually the first to show up for anything, and often the last to leave.



► Bruce Pretty

Conservative Age: 68
Experience in politics: I have been a ... political volunteer, both federally and provincially, since my 20s. I was president of the Halifax West Conservative Association when the riding was Halifax St. Margaret's.
What do most people not know about you? I was the first ophthalmologist to bring ... soft contacts and laser surgery to Halifax.



► Geoff Regan

Liberal Age: 51
Experience in politics: I was first elected in 1993, defeated in the wave of 1997, re-elected in 2000 and have been the MP for Halifax West since then.
What do most people not know about you? I had the great pleasure to serve as an election observer in Haiti.



► Thomas Trappenberg

Green Age: 47
Experience in politics: I ran in the 2006 federal election, have established the first Green Electoral District Associations in Halifax and Halifax-West, supported Elizabeth May to become leader of the Green Party of Canada.
What do most people not know about you? That I wanted to be an astronaut.

What is the largest issue facing your riding?

We need to establish a strategy for taking advantage of new opportunities in this riding. It's time for federal leadership on transportation and immigration. Our government should be working with the provinces and municipalities to deliver results.

We need to keep taxes low for working families and our local businesses. Low taxes enable local businesses to create good jobs. I'm also hearing about our support for the Canadian Forces. We need to give them the best equipment available.

Most people express a deep concern about what's happening to Canada under the Harper government. People are uneasy with the American-style politics Mr. Harper practises. The big policy issue discussions focus around families. Young parents are worried about finding daycare spaces.

Jobs, community support such as more community facilities, better support for new Canadians and seniors. We have many ideas about new ventures. For example, why don't we manufacture solar panels right here in Halifax West?

What do you bring to the campaign that your opponents don't?

I'm running for office to bring Halifax West's voice to Ottawa, not the reverse. I'm not a career politician. For the past 20 years I've worked in the arts industry. I've been with the Atlantic Film Festival for 15 years, serving as executive director since 2000.

I can bring a voice in government. There is so much that can be accomplished when you have an MP at the government table and working with ministers instead of constantly criticizing them.

The main difference is experience, trust and accessibility. I know how to achieve results for people in Halifax West, whether it's securing funding for key infrastructure projects, help to promote issues like Purple Day or assistance with immigration cases ... I understand local issues.

A non-politician attitude and filling out my own response. We are the only party who consistently focus on environmental concerns, a clear shift to a new sustainable economy and preventative health care.

What changes do you want to see in the next Parliament?

I want to work toward better co-operation and partnership — both on and off Parliament Hill. ... The government needs to take whatever mandate it gets from the Canadian people and work toward making life better for families.

I would like to see more civility in the next Parliament. When you have a minority government, and the opposition MPs are constantly jockeying to bring down the government, your MP can forget about the people they represent.

I would like to see a change to Question Period so that members from all parties show more respect for each other and stop the hyper-partisan personal attacks. I also would like the next government to show respect, not contempt, for Parliament, which is the main pillar of our democracy.

Election reforms, investment into a new green economy, more transparency, less political posturing, senate reforms, no attack ads, more vision to think big and achieve something.

What will you bring for the people of your riding?

I understand the need to enter this job with an open door and an open mind ... I've been listening to the views and concerns of the people in our riding. I want to work with them to build more vibrant communities and a better Canada.

I respect entrepreneurs and I understand how governments can help business and where red tape needs to be cut. I also understand our medical system, how it can be improved to keep medical care readily accessible for all Canadians.

I see my role as being a champion for the people of this riding in the House of Commons, in the Liberal caucus and in discussions with Michael Ignatieff. I will continue to engage with people in Halifax West and fight for the issues that matter to them.

A true new voice with new ideas. Think about it, what do you have to lose? Imagine I would be elected; this would bring the spotlight to Halifax West and we could lead the country with building a green economy right here.

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04

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011

Epic. Portage



► Cory Zelinski, front, and Kyle Harvey walk down Quinpool Road with their kayaks as they head out for an overnight camping trip.

TERRA CIOLE/FOR METRO

Up at street without a paddle

Family of shooting victim left behind

► He 'could always be counted on for a good laugh'

Kathleen Pyke said Nathan Cross is leaving behind his three-year-old son, family in North Preston and Musquodoboit Harbour and "too many friends to count."

Pyke, the godmother of the recent murder victim, described 22-year-old Cross as energetic and full of life with a loving soul.

"He was always concerning himself with how others were doing, more so than himself," Pyke told Metro in an email yesterday. "Nathan struggled between good and evil, but he had enough sense to know that good was the only road to take."

"To have mother and child, both so violently taken away, and both remain unsolved, well that is just unimaginable."

KATHLEEN PYKE, GODMOTHER OF NATHAN CROSS AND BEST FRIEND OF LAURA LEE CROSS

Pyke said Cross spoke frequently about going back to school and "becoming a positive person."

She said Cross became like her own child after the passing of her best friend and Cross's mother, Laura

Lee Cross, who was reported missing in July 2001 and was found dead in 2002.

Cpl. Scott MacRae, spokesman for the RCMP, stated Monday that he was "90 per cent positive" Laura Lee was not Nathan's mother. MacRae said yesterday that he exhausted all his resources but nothing was found to connect the two. He apologized for the inaccuracy on behalf of the RCMP.

Cross was shot on Easter Sunday in the area of Churchill Terrace across from Nelson Whynder Elementary School shortly after 6:30 p.m. He died before arriving at hospital.

News in brief

Guilty plea in attempted murder charge

Aaron Gregory Marriott pleaded guilty to a charge of attempted murder at the Nova Scotia Supreme Court yesterday morning.

Marriott was charged with the shooting of Jason Hallett after an altercation outside the IWK Health

Centre on Nov. 18, 2008. Hallett, said to be an associate of the Melvin crime family, was injured in the wrist.

Shaun Smith, who was also charged in the shooting, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit murder yesterday.

● ALY THOMSON

Police search for 4 youths

Police in Halifax are looking for several teenage suspects after a

rock-throwing incident escalated into a stabbing early Monday evening.

Two men, ages 19 and 20, were walking in the central part of the city around 5 p.m. when a group of younger males began taunting them and threw a rock.

After a verbal exchange, police say the men were confronted by four youths.

Police say one of the men was punched twice, while the other was stabbed in the back of the neck.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ASBESTHWAT?

Thou shalt not speak its name

Neither the name of a cancer-stricken Conservative colleague nor the word asbestos passed Stephen Harper's lips yesterday as he defended Canada's export of the deadly carcinogen that has afflicted Transport Minister Chuck Strahl.

Instead, Harper used

a campaign stop in Asbestos, Que., to promote his party as a stout promoter of a dying industry.

"The only party that defends the chrysotile industry is our party, the Conservative party," Harper said in French, at a seniors' home 150 kilometres outside Montreal.

Chrysotile is the name used by the government-funded industry lobby group. The Chrysotile Institute promotes white asbestos and attempts to soften laws restricting or banning its use.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grits: 'The base is back'

A covert Liberal ground game has brought disenchanted party faithful back into the fold, Michael Ignatieff said yesterday.

The Liberal chief is confident those 800,000 Grits who stayed home in the 2008 election will come out

to vote on May 2.

"The base is back," he said. Ignatieff credits his pavement pounding with winning back Liberals who couldn't bring themselves to go to the ballot box when Stephane Dion led the party.

"I've spent a year and a half on that bus, a year and a half on Open Mike town halls," Ignatieff said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Imagine all the people voting NDP

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► NDP Leader Jack Layton waves from the steps of his campaign plane as he arrives in Toronto yesterday.

► In new ad Layton says he won't stop until job done ► NDP up in polls



Jack Layton is no John Lennon, but the piano-playing, left-leaning NDP leader is nonetheless urging Canadian voters to explore the boundaries of their political imaginations.

The party's latest ad, titled Imagine, urges viewers to think seriously about making a prime minister of Layton — a man whose party has never had the heft to genuinely challenge the Liberals or Conservatives.

It's a dramatic departure from the usual fare of animated cut-outs and low-budget Tory bashing,

another clear sign that with opinion polls suggesting a surge in popularity in Quebec and elsewhere, the NDP is in unfamiliar territory.

No one, it seems, knows that better than their leader.

"I'm a New Democrat," a pragmatic-sounding Layton said yesterday in Montreal, when confronted with the reality that more votes may not mean more seats.

"We're used to ... having people come and be interested in our ideas, but then because of our current electoral system we don't get the number of seats that are warranted by the percentage of vote that we get." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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06

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011

Sniper victims lie scattered in Syria after raid

- Army killed at least 22 people in uprising crackdown
- World leaders ask authoritarian to show 'restraint'

Residents of the southern Syrian city of Daraa braved sniper fire yesterday to pull the bullet-riddled bodies of the dead from the streets and hide them from security forces, a day after a brutal government crackdown on the popular revolt against President Bashar Assad, witnesses said.

As heavy gunfire reverberated through Daraa, a Syrian human-rights group said authorities detained dozens of people across the country, mainly in several Damascus suburbs, including the town of

Douma, and in the northern coastal city of Jableh.

The Syrian army, backed by tanks and snipers, killed at least 22 people in a raid launched before dawn Monday on Daraa, where the uprising began more than a month ago. Security forces also conducted raids in the towns of Douma and Jableh.

World leaders expressed concern at the mounting bloodshed, with the United States starting to draw up sanctions against Assad, diplomats hoping to send a strong

signal to Damascus from the United Nations and the prime minister of neighbouring Turkey telephoning the Syrian leader to urge restraint.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

400

A relentless crackdown since mid-March has seen more than 400 people killed across Syria, with 120 dead over the weekend, rights groups said.

Remembering. Chornobyl



► Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, right, and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev ring bells at a Chornobyl commemoration in Ukraine, yesterday.

ANDRIY MOSIENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defending nuclear power

Tough new guidelines could help prevent accidents like the massive Chornobyl meltdown, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev insisted yesterday, defending nuclear energy during solemn ceremonies commemorating the 25th anniversary of the worst nuclear accident in history. Medvedev and Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich took part in a religious service outside Chornobyl's damaged No. 4 nuclear reactor.

News in brief

Former pope to be blessed

BEATIFICATION. Blood taken from Pope John Paul II during his final hospitalization will be used as the official relic for veneration after he is beatified.

The Vatican made the statement yesterday, putting to rest questions about what relic would be presented during Sunday's beatification.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EU centre still divided

FALL. Belgium marked an anniversary yesterday, but no one is celebrating.

One year ago, King Albert II accepted the resignation of the government. One election and countless negotiations later, the search for a new governing coalition is still on.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defence cuts could affect service stipend

► Allowance changes prompt fear of benefit chop
► Service people worry funds could be eliminated

National Defence has changed a cost-of-living allowance for tens of thousands of soldiers, sailors and aircrew, prompting fears the deficit-slashing Harper government will eliminate it altogether.

A spokesman for the department's senior policy section denies the benefit will be scrapped and maintains changes to the Post Living Differential Allowance are administrative.

But the \$150-million-a-year expenditure is a fat target for Defence, which was to restrain costs by \$500 million this year and \$1 billion in each of the following two years under the latest federal budget.

The benefit used to be included with military paycheques in high-cost cities, but it has been deposited separately since April 1.

Senior non-commissioned officers at several

bases have warned the rank and file that this is the first step toward possible elimination of the assistance altogether.

An internal memo reminding those in uniform that the stipend, based on region and the economy, was meant only as a cushion against high costs.

A leaked memo said not to "include PLD as income when making financial commitments."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Final. Flight



► Capt. Neil Prescott poses in front of a venerable Canadian Forces Hercules at Kandahar airfield, Afghanistan, on Monday before its last flight.

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hercules' final voyage home

It has been flying soldiers and all kinds of cargo to and from war zones around the world since the Beatles wanted to hold your hand. Now the CC-130 Hercules-H, a Canadian air force mainstay, is making its last journey home from Afghanistan.

Council: Leaked doc shows bias

New WikiLeaks documents that describe a Montreal mosque as a terror hub are defamatory, says a local Muslim spokesman.

The newly leaked U.S. documents claim a Mauritanian terror suspect being held at Guantanamo Bay was the leader of a Montreal-based al-Qaida cell that planned terror attacks in

the United States.

The secret documents, released by WikiLeaks on its website last weekend, also claim that members of al-Qaida were recruited and trained at Montreal's Al Sunnah Al Nabawiah Mosque, where the terror suspect served briefly, possibly as an imam.

But the chairman of the

Muslim Council of Montreal said the documents serve as an example of how the community's institutions are unfairly targeted by authorities.

"Our allegations are certainly correct that we've been targeted and this is biased targeting," Salam Elmenyawi said in an interview. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cuba.....89.9 ¢/min	Pakistan.....5.9 ¢/min	U.K.....2.9 ¢/min		
El Salvador.....9.9 ¢/min	Philippines.....11.9 ¢/min	Vietnam.....4.9 ¢/min		
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Copper fever: Better than gold

► Demand for the hottest metal on the market is only going to get hotter as demand exceeds rare supply

More big miners are expected to follow the world's largest gold company into the copper sector as its price soars in response to China's growing hunger for the metal.

Canada's Barrick Gold Corp. took a bold step into copper on Monday with a

\$7.3-billion bid to acquire Equinox Minerals Ltd.

Copper is likely to hover at record prices for the next few years, because there isn't enough supply in the world to feed China's demand for the metal used in electric cables, cars, cell-phones and trains, says Patricia Mohr, commodities specialist at Scotiabank.

The price of copper closed at \$4.32 US yesterday, below the record of \$4.60 set in February. But Mohr said copper is still bringing in "huge" profit margins of 70 per cent and more, while other metals bring in about 50 per cent.

The number of viable gold mines is thinning out,

"Copper is much more profitable than gold ... even with the record gold prices we've been seeing. That's why I've been calling copper the new gold."




PATRICIA MOHR, COMMODITIES SPECIALIST, SCOTIABANK

so gold miners have to look to other metals to grow their business. Mohr said opportunities to buy established copper mines are rare, and many firms could start bidding wars to acquire one. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Manitoba to invest \$1M in electric bus

The province is hoping the all-electric transit bus will one day be used all over North America. Premier Greg Selinger says Manitoba aims to be a leader in developing electric vehicles to help cut greenhouse-gas emissions. The prototype bus will be ready in 12 months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment	
TSX	Dollar
	
+ 1.78 (13,909.1)	+ 0.30¢ (105.06¢ US)
Oil	Natural gas
	1,000 cu ft
- 7¢ US (\$112.21 US)	\$4.39 US (- 1¢ US)
	Gold contracts
	\$1,503.50 US (- \$5.60 US)



SAKU SAKU: NIFTY TECH NEW TABLETS ARE 'UNIQUELY SONY'

Sony Corp. is planning a tablet computer it promises will make the best of its "saku saku," or nifty, technology.

The tablet, code-named S1, comes with a 24-centimetre touch panel similar to Apple's iPad for enjoying online content and for email and social networking.

Sony also has an S2 prototype, a smaller mobile device with two 14-centimetre displays that can be folded like a book.

Both run on Google's Android 3.0 operating system. The release date is in September, Sony said, but there's no word yet on prices.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Site Principal Investigator for Clinical Trials in the treatment of MS

Dr. Christine Short

Division Chief, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre
"Improving quality of life through management of mobility and other symptoms in persons with MS"

Trudy Campbell

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JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
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I am Canadian. Thanks to a certain beer commercial, you already know what that means. I vote with my heart since my head is only good for parking one of those hats with earflaps. When I was very young, I voted NDP. Then, one day I got tired of wasting my vote, so I voted for Pierre Trudeau, even though he thought the West was something you flew over on the way to visit Margaret's parents in Vancouver.

Even though he flipped off Prairie farmers and launched the National Energy Program, which is why no Liberals get elected in Alberta to this day.

I had a brief moment of remorse and voted for Joe Clark, the favourite son of High River, Alta. But as Progressive a Conservative as Joe was, he was still a long way from Ed Broadbent.

So I went back and wasted my vote for another couple of elections. Don't blame me for Brian Mulroney. I voted NDP.

"I grew up in the geographical centre of Canada, Winnipeg, and from there, you can see both sides. Winnipeg elects a lot of Liberals, who can also see both sides."

Then I surprised myself and voted for Kim Campbell, even if she was going out with a guy who was trying to sell running shoes with springs in them. Of course, she was crushed by the Little Guy/petit gars from Shawinigan, and so at the next available opportunity, I went Little Guy, even though there was really nothing little about him. Especially his ego.

By the time Jean Chrétien was ushered off the stage, I had settled into a Liberal voting pattern,

which is probably where my heart belongs. I grew up in the geographical centre of Canada, Winnipeg, and from there, you can see both sides. Winnipeg elects a lot of Liberals, who can also see both sides.

Liberals are often accused of riding the fence, and that was certainly Paul Martin's problem — he spent his brief reign impaled on a picket, but I voted for him anyway.

So here we go again.

Stephen Harper? Can't sing. Never trust anyone who is a semi-tone flat but insists on singing in public anyway. Karaoke hog.

Jack Layton? Can't count. If we give him the keys to the Canadian economy, he will take it for a joyride until it runs out of gas.

Elizabeth May? Can't get elected. It's like voting Rhinoceros, just not as much fun.

My heart says to vote for Michael Ignatieff, who is one of the most well-educated guys ever to run for prime minister, but I guess summa cum laude doesn't get you to Sussex Drive.

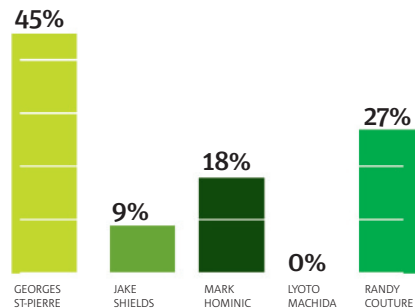
I am Canadian. It doesn't really matter if my choice wins. What matters is that I vote, because I can.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsayin



Register at
metrolifepanel.ca
and take the quick poll

Who is the best looking UFC fighter on Saturday's card for UFC 129 in Toronto?



Local tweets



- @Sarah-Murrant: Quiet, gray day. In Halifax. Big hockey night. Go BRUINS!!!
- @jenni9024: @SnoopDogg when are you coming back to Halifax, n.s ... we miss you here
- @bradfordm1: @WWEDanielBryan to Smackdown means seeing him on Sept. 10th in Halifax. If that's not a great thing, I don't know what is.
- @JMMawhinney: Fooled by the bus schedule

telephone service, is it just me or is it kinda unreliable? #Halifax

- @NSNag: @AIMSTweets i'm on my way back from cayman islands, lots of NS young people here who don't want to return to Halifax no employment
- @sjannie: Look forward to meeting the Canadian eLearning Conference participants in Halifax this week! #celc11
- @PrimeBane: Do politicians even knock on doors anymore? Last folks that came to my door wanted to "tell me about their god" #bringpizza

Cartoon by Michael de Adder

#elxn41: Tweets

We asked: Turnout in Canadian elections can be quite low. What's a reason you wouldn't vote?

- @jen2sen: I am voting but really they are all the same why can't politicians work together for the greater good?
- @megelizah: I don't like the choices & I don't just want to pick the one I dislike the least ... So maybe I'll just spoil my ballot?
- @timwadephul: Ignorance. It can be really hard to find proper/unbiased information about not just party leaders, but local representatives
- @brittanymaria: Informed voting and political engagement is so important but I think many people feel alienated by the political parties.
- @stevequinton: I'm voting but if I didn't it would be because politicians are all elitist a*holes. They only care about their careers.
- @lor1b3nn3tt: frustration with who to vote for. & it would be nice to vote directly for our pm instead of the way we do it in Canada.
- @jla30: Don't like the candidates #elxn41



WEIRD NEWS

Handing the keys over to a new generation

No more hieroglyphics. No more quill pen and inkwell. Now the mechanical typewriter may be on the endangered list.

The owners of the world's last remaining mechanical typewriter factory have shut the plant's doors because of declining orders, CBC News reports.

Godrej & Boyce Manufacturing Co. Ltd. has shuttered its facility in Mum-

bai, India, where, as recently as 2009, the company was making 12,000 mechanical typewriters per year.

"We are not getting many orders now," general manager Milind Dukle told India's Business Standard newspaper. "This might be the last chance for typewriter lovers."

Mechanical typewriters are prized in India for their ease, efficiency and durability. As many as 400 million Indians lack reliable electricity, so the devices were widely used in the courts and government bureaucracy.

The first commercial mechanical typewriter was produced in the U.S. in 1867. The devices pioneered the QWERTY keyboard layout that is now ubiquitous on personal computers and smartphones. ● METRO



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2
scene

An idiot's guide to the Royals

► Who's who in the Windsor family? ► Here's everything you need to know

Position: Her Royal Highness, The Queen
Who? Became Queen at 25. Head of State for the U.K. and 15 other Commonwealth realms including Canada, patron of more than 600 charities, advises the government.
Scandal: Consistently dignified, although her dislike for Princess Di was made public.



Her Majesty the Queen

ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

Position: Husband to The Queen
Who? Accompanies The Queen on her duties. Patron or president of 800-plus organizations.
Scandal: Infamous for embarrassing gaffes like asking an Aboriginal person whether they still throw spears on a state visit to Australia.

Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall



Position: Second wife of Prince Charles
Who? Married Charles in 2005, and supports him in his duties.
Scandal: Unglamorous but jolly second wife of Prince Charles.

Charles, Prince of Wales



Princess Anne



Prince Andrew, Duke of York



Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex



Diana, Princess of Wales



Position: Late ex-wife of Prince Charles
Who? Hugely popular and glamorous, committed to her daring charity work with AIDS-sufferers and anti-land-mine organizations. Divorced Charles in 1996, died in 1997.

Position: The Queen's oldest son
Who? Runs umbrella group of 20 charities, patron to 400.
Scandal: Had affair with his old flame Camilla Parker-Bowles, their intimate relationship revealed in phone call transcripts in which he said he wished he were her tampon.

Position: The Queen's only daughter
Who? Low-key but prolific. President of Save the Children, and patron of more than 320 organizations and charities.
Scandal: Has two children, Zara Philips and Peter Philips



Zara Philips

Position: The Queen's middle son
Who? A Royal Navy helicopter pilot for 22 years.
Scandal: Nicknamed Randy Andy in the '80s for a string of glamorous girlfriends. Most recently his role as trade envoy is threatened by links to billionaire Jeffery Epstein convicted of underage sex.

Sarah Ferguson



Position: The Queen's youngest son
Who? An unacademic Cambridge graduate who left Royal Marines early to work in the theatre.
Scandal: Long rumoured to be gay. In 1986 his TV company produced embarrassing TV charity game show, It's a Royal Knockout.

Sophie, Countess of Wessex



Prince Harry



Position: Youngest son of Prince Charles
Who? Has trained as a tank commander, and currently training as a helicopter pilot with the army.
Scandal: General drunkenness, dressing as a Nazi at a fancy dress party.

Prince William



Position: Oldest son of Prince Charles
Who? Helicopter pilot for the RAF, has also followed in his mother's footsteps supporting homeless and AIDS charities.
Scandal: Relatively clean, although chastised for flying helicopter to friend's party.

Kate Middleton



Position: Fiancee of William
Who? Attractive royal bride-to-be. Worked for her parents' online party shop until her engagement.
Scandal: Allegedly her mother pushed her to attend St. Andrews University in order to meet her prince charming.

Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie



Position: Children
Who? Party-going student daughters often photographed falling out of high-society clubs.

Lady Louise and Viscount Severn



Position: Children
Who? Kept out of the media glare.



EMMA FORREST
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Wedding tweets

Hopefully Kate and William's marriage will mark a new generation of royal marriages. Marriages in the previous generation are too-often far from happy. Three of Queen Elizabeth's four children have divorced.



Follow Wedding-bells Allison McGill as she tweets live from London before, during and after the royal nuptials on Friday at metronews.ca/royalwedding



For more Royal Wedding coverage, scan this code or visit metronews.ca/royalwedding

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Lindsay will work close to dead bodies

► Actress' community service to include doing time at Los Angeles coroner

While Lindsay Lohan is facing four months behind bars, she's also been ordered to complete 480 hours of community service — and 120 of those hours around dead bodies, according to People magazine.

Lohan will spend a portion of her community service time working for the Los Angeles coroner.

"She won't be handling any dead bodies but she'll certainly see them," coroner assistant chief Ed Winter tells the magazine.

Instead, Lohan will be handling janitorial tasks like emptying trash cans and cleaning floors and bathrooms. ● METRO



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Talking points

Aguilera tries to get past flub

A BAD JOKE Christina Aguilera is doing her best to get passed her infamous Super Bowl gaffe, during which she sang the wrong lyrics during the Star-Spangled Banner.

"That night I knew, I just made myself a Trivial Pursuit question," she tells Ellen DeGeneres. "In 2011, what female singer, ya know, flubbed the lyrics. It's just insane. But I have a really good

laugh about it and you get over things."

● METRO



Celebrity tweets



"Avoid vexatious people."

@TheRealNimoy

@MissKelly0



"My hearts in my mouth right now & my hands r shaking because a pap almost drove me off the road if he hit us we would of ended up in the er"

@billmaher



"Tina Fey, 5 months pregnant at 40 now and showing and no one knew - boy, when she does a Sarah Palin impression, she really commits!"

Cage facing child abuse claims

After his wild night in New Orleans last week that led to his arrest, Nicolas Cage may also find himself investigated for child abuse, according to TMZ.

In the initial police report from Cage's arrest, his wife, Alice Kim, says that Cage "fell while holding



their son" during their argument.

"The fall caused the five-

year-old to suffer a minor abrasion to his left knee."

A witness, however, claims he saw, "Mr. Cage pull the male child to the ground by his hand."

The police report states that Kim would not let police interview her son after the incident. ● METRO

Douglas angered by reporting on wife

Michael Douglas is proud of wife Catherine Zeta-Jones for discussing her bipolar disorder, but he wishes she didn't have to go through the public ordeal of it.

"I must say, Catherine's being quite open about it because she was outed, you know," Douglas said.

"She went to go get some help and some other patient probably in there said, 'Hey, you won't believe who's in here now.' And, so, once that happens, I think she felt [it] best to kind of get out the story." ● METRO

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3
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Travel in brief



Some of the best pictures from the news in 2010, including award-winning images from Haiti, are going on display at the Newseum in Washington. The Pictures of the Year exhibit opens Friday. The Newseum says it includes Lady Gaga's first appearance in a Washington museum.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Presley, Ali photos tell stories of two American icons at Pennsylvania museum



► The cold waters of the Pacific teem with colour and life under the surface in British Columbia. Some of the most beautiful parts of the province lie under the surface of the ocean, say divers, who come from around the world to explore the colourful marine life and underwater creatures that call the Pacific home.

Go explore B.C.'s underwater wonders

► Canada's West Coast beauty is not limited to forests and mountains

From a crevice on the ocean floor, the prehistoric-looking face of a wolf eel emerges from the darkness, all bulging eyes and warts bobbing toward the camera.

Most divers off the coast of British Columbia consider an encounter with these pucker creatures one of the highlights of plying the waters off the West Coast of Canada. Sometimes called the "puppies" of the sea, described as among the friendliest creatures to be

encountered in the wild, eager to cuddle at popular dive sites where they have become accustomed to visitors from above the surface.

"They look mean, they look ugly but, just as long as you're careful, you can actually go and touch them, they will snuggle with you," says Paul Kennell, creator of CoolDives.com, a website dedicated to diving off the B.C. coast. "They're funny looking things but they're pretty gentle, generally."

Kennell has explored

oceans around the world in his 15 years of diving but reserves his best reviews for his home waters. The tropics are warmer, says Kennell, "but the diving is also nowhere near as exciting."

Lore has it that famed underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau proclaimed the waters off the coast of British Columbia the best cold-water diving in the world. Scuba Diving Magazine readers chose B.C. the No. 1 diving site in

North America last year.

"The diving around B.C. is amongst the best in the world," agrees Greg Dombowsky, curator of Dive.BC.ca and author of the Divers Guide Vancouver Island South.

The waters off the B.C. coast boast the giant Pacific octopus, the biggest sea stars and forests of giant sponges. Under the surface, the water teems with a rainbow of life, including anemones, sea cucumbers and coral. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

If you go ...

- Tourism British Columbia's website (hellobc.com) includes information on diving in the province, diving tours and practical tips for planning a vacation.
- CoolDives.com has information and online bookings for scuba diving trip.
- Dive.BC.ca is another website that has great information, photos and videos to help plan a trip.

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The forgotten National Park

► Waterton Lakes National Park in Alberta has the beauty of Jasper and Banff without the huge crowds

When it comes to tourist destinations, Waterton Lakes National Park may very well be Canada's best-kept secret.

Tucked away in the southwestern corner of Alberta, 180 kilometres from Calgary, Waterton attracts just 400,000 visitors a year despite the fact it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, an International Peace Park and a Biosphere Reserve.

There are wildflowers and wildlife galore and the snowcapped Rocky Mountains suddenly rise out of the rolling Prairies as you arrive.

Waterton was Canada's fourth national park, created in 1895 and named after Waterton Lake. The lake is named after Victorian naturalist and conserva-

If you go ...

- Waterton is 180 kilometres southwest of Calgary. If you are driving from the Calgary International Airport head south on Highway 2 down to Cardston. Turn right on Highway 5 and the road takes you directly to the park.
- The Wildflower Festival runs June 18 to 26; watertonwildflowers.com
- The Wildlife Festival runs September 23 to 25; trailofthegreatbear.com.

tionist Charles Waterton. The park contains 505 square kilometres of rugged mountains and wilderness and is seriously off the beaten path.

"When I first moved to Alberta and moved to Wa-

terton, nobody knew where it was and that includes people in Calgary. I would do trade shows. I was selling Waterton because nobody knew where it was," said Shameer Suleman, vice-president of the Waterton Chamber of Commerce.

The one thing that Waterton offers that Banff, Lake Louise and even Jasper National Parks cannot is peace and quiet.

That means it is the perfect getaway, especially for those wanting to spend time in a more tranquil setting.

"When I'm talking to a potential employee, I say it's what Banff was 30 or 40 years ago or Whistler was 30 or 40 years ago," said Suleman.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Cameron Lake in Waterton Lakes National Park. Waterton attracts 400,000 visitors a year and is a favourite location for hikers.



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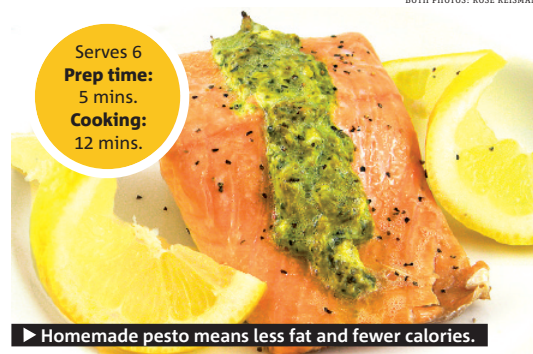
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A perfect brunch

► These recipes are ideal for when you entertain small and intimate groups

BOTH PHOTOS: ROSE REISMAN



Serves 6
Prep time:
5 mins.
Cooking:
12 mins.

► Homemade pesto means less fat and fewer calories.



ROSE REISMAN
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

This Salmon with Pesto and Cream Cheese is an easy and delicious way to serve salmon.

I prefer to use homemade pesto, which has fewer calories and less fat

than store-bought pesto.

Preparation:

1 Preheat the oven to 425°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with foil and lightly coat with cooking spray.

2 For the pesto, place all the ingredients in the

bowl of a food processor and purée until smooth. Add more water if too thick.

3 Combine the cream cheese and pesto in a small bowl until smooth.

4 Make a small vertical slit on the top of each salmon fillet to within 1/4 inch of each end and about 1/2 inch deep.

Stuff each fillet by dividing the pesto filling between the 6 fillets.

5 Arrange spinach, cucumber and olives on a large serving platter. Top with roasted vegetables.

6 Place on the prepared baking sheet and bake for 10 minutes per inch of thickness. Garnish with toasted nuts before serving.

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 lb salmon fillet, cut into 6 fillets (about 4 oz. each)
- 1/4 cup low-fat cream cheese (about 2 oz), softened
- 2 Tbsp pesto
- 2 Tbsp toasted pine nuts (or almonds)

Pesto

- 1 cup fresh basil leaves
- 2 Tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 Tbsp toasted pine nuts
- 2 Tbsp light cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 3 Tbsp chicken stock (or vegetable stock or water)
- 2 Tbsp olive oil

Warm Spinach Salad



This salad must be served warm so the cheese softens over the warmed mushrooms.

go in a serving bowl. Pour dressing over salad and toss. Serve immediately. **ROSE REISMAN**

Preparation:

1 Lightly coat a nonstick skillet with cooking spray and sauté mushrooms over medium heat for about 8 minutes, or just until no longer wet and slightly browned. Keep warm.

2 Prepare dressing by whisking olive oil, balsamic vinegar, mayo, honey, garlic, mustard, salt and pepper.

3 Place spinach, sautéed mushrooms and Asia-

Ingredients:

Salad

- 3 cups oyster mushrooms, sliced in half
- 8 cups baby spinach
- 1/2 cup shredded Asiago (or Parmesan) cheese

Dressing

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 Tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tsp honey
- 1/2 tsp finely chopped garlic
- 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard
- pinch of salt and pepper

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CANADIANS LOVE THEIR REWARDS CARDS

So much so that it is estimated that 94% of us are enrolled in some type of loyalty program, according to market researcher Colloquy.

These programs encourage or 'reward' shoppers for their continued patronage or 'loyalty', in the form of discounts or points that may be redeemed against a variety of goods and services. They also enable the retailer to track their customers'

preferences and trends.

There are a great number and variety of programs, and the list is constantly growing. From specialized credit cards, to retail and grocery club cards, to free refill cards at local cafés, it seems that everyone is vying for loyalty.

Geoff Dillon, a senior director at CIBC says "Certainly one of the trends we're seeing is that people increasingly are focused on value, and they want to earn as many rewards as possible, but particularly on things they buy every day." CIBC's AeroGold card lets you accumulate 1.5 Aeroplan miles for every dollar you spend at gas, grocery and drugstores.

The key to the success of a number of

these programs lies in advances in information technology. Companies are experimenting with new, compelling, high-tech methods to deliver reward programs. LoyaltyOne, the parent company of Air Miles, has just released a new mobile app for the iPhone, explains spokesperson Jeff Fredericks. "The mobile app allows you to find sponsors on the fly, check in to those sponsor locations and see what the best deals are. That has been a tremendous success for us so far."

At the same time, redeeming reward points can help stretch the budget. "We certainly saw during the downturn, that folks were turning to their reward programs to stretch that dollar further,"

says Fredericks. "And, it just makes sense. There are a number of reward items like gift certificates for example, that people were taking advantage of during the tough times."

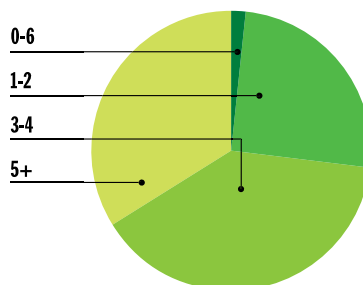
Today, there are myriad ways to redeem accumulated points. For example, Royal Bank Avion cardholders can use their points at a rate of 100 points per dollar to book a trip, hotel, or car rental. The Sears Choice Rewards Program allows customers to earn one point for every dollar spent on eligible purchases using the Sears MasterCard. A common trend is to bundle rewards through partnerships between retailers that allow shoppers to swap their points.

— By Duncan McAllister

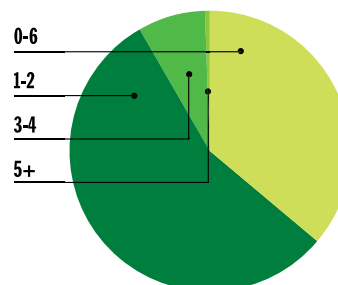
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THE METRO LIFE PANEL WEIGHS IN ABOUT POINT COLLECTION AND REDEMPTION

HOW MANY LOYALTY & REWARDS CARDS DO YOU OWN?



HOW MANY LOYALTY & REWARDS CARDS DOUBLE AS A CREDIT CARD?



TOP 10 THINGS TO SPEND LOYALTY & REWARDS POINTS ON

1. Food
2. Gift Certificates
3. Airfare
4. Cosmetics
5. Clothing
6. Movies
7. Hotel Stays
8. Gas
9. Home Décor
10. Spas



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REWARDS BY THE NUMBERS



CARD FILES

More than 75% of consumers today have at least one loyalty card. It is estimated that one third of all shoppers have two or more cards, according to Jupiter Research.

According to a recent Leger survey, more than 80% of women belong to more than one loyalty program compared to only 69% of men, and one in four women carry at least five loyalty cards.

A Maritz marketing study found that shoppers who are young, female, with children under 18 years, are likely to carry a rewards card.



FLYER PROGRAMS

The airline industry is credited with innovating the frequent flier plans, which were the models for most modern loyalty programs, with American Airlines being one of the first in 1981.

The Air Miles reward program is Canada's largest loyalty program, founded in 1992, with more than 10 million active collector accounts, representing approximately two-thirds of all Canadian households. Air Miles can be earned at more than 100 different sponsors with a thousand different rewards to be redeemed.

In 2009, Aeroplan issued over 2.1 million rewards to its members, including 1.5 million flights on Air Canada and Star Alliance carriers. Aeroplan was originally Air Canada's frequent flyer program created in 1984.



SPENDING HABITS

Loyalty shoppers spend more money, according to a study by marketing group Maritz. They found that consumers who are enrolled in loyalty programs tend to spend more money than non-members.

Loyalty programs increase merchants' sales. In one study, it was found that a popular "baby club" was responsible for increased sales of baby products by 25% on average over six months. It also increased the amounts purchased and increased store traffic by 5%.

Almost every Canadian gas station offers some type of rewards program, such as Canadian Tire money and Petro-Canada's Petro-Points.



WHAT'S NEW

Technology is the leading enabler of rewards programs. Vendors such as RewardMe and FourSquare use QR codes, the popular, square-shaped barcodes that customers scan with their iPhone and Android after they have made a purchase, to collect rewards.

Manufacturers are getting on the rewards bandwagon with promotions that allow you to enter a code from specially marked packages and products into their websites to collect rewards.

Programs are more flexible than ever. Companies like Charity Choice allow you to redeem your points towards any of a 100 different charities from a wide range of rewards programs. Also, the Marriott Hotel Rewards program allows you to donate points to benefit the recent Japan tragedy.



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ENTERTAINMENT IS A PERSONAL THING, AND SO ARE LOYALTY PROGRAMS.

What members want, members get. — *By Chris Edwards*



1. Figure out which programs you're more likely to use. Line them up with your interests.
2. Spend strategically. Use a few loyalty programs otherwise your points will accumulate slowly.
3. Look for cards with bonus point promotions.
4. Make sure your annual credit card fees aren't more than what you redeem your points for.
5. Charge all your monthly expenses, including if you can, utility bills, insurance payments, rent or even your mortgage payment.
6. Offer to use your card to purchase big ticket items for family or friends to earn the rewards.

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"Chrysler Group and its brands do not tolerate inappropriate language or behaviour, and apologize to anyone who may have been offended by this communication."

So read Chrysler's press release following the dismissal of an employee at its public relations firm who mistakenly tweeted on Chrysler's account that no one in Detroit knows how to drive.

In many respects, that example signals a growing trend: employees tweeting "casually" about their lives not realizing that what they say on Twitter has workplace-related consequences. Here are some common areas of concern.

* Spending an inordinate amount of time using Twitter at work for non-business-related purposes is tantamount to theft of an employer's time, which can be cause for dismissal.

* Comments posted on Twitter can link the au-

thor to her employer, even though no connection is intended. Contact information on Twitter accounts often includes a place of work, and therefore employees who tweet objectionable or defamatory material may be mistakenly perceived as having done so for their employer, which is exactly what happened in the Chrysler case above. Because of this, employers have a right to monitor their employees' tweets, even when they are made outside of business hours.

* Criminal laws can also be invoked if employees harass or intimidate co-workers through Twitter. These employees can end up surfacing the classifieds for a criminal defence lawyer, as well as for a new job. Further, since courts have used blog or Facebook posts as grounds to uphold discipline, they will have little difficulty construing tweets in the same manner.

* Also, unlike general Internet use, which is private, Twitter posts do not simply disappear. Tweets containing offensive comments, pictures or links to stories become incontrovertible evidence of an employee's behaviour. Like an email, a tweet can be traced back to the originator, long after the fact.

DANIEL LUBLIN IS AN EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP. HIS FULL ARTICLE CAN BE READ ONLINE AT METRONEWS.CA

► WWF's Green CommUnity program is handing out up to \$5,000 in grant money to any school willing to prioritize our planet

Helping green dreams come true

WWF is helping to grow young environmental leaders across Canada with its Green CommUnity School Grants Program, made possible by Loblaw Companies Limited. With six rounds of funding over three years, schools can apply each spring and winter season through 2012 for grants of up to \$5,000 for anything and everything from a bicycle repair shop to a biodiversity garden. The program is open to any student or teacher with a green dream for their school or community.

Looking for some inspiration for what your school can do? Chances are you don't need to look any further than your own community. These grants have funded 59 projects to date in communities small and large, from P.E.I. to the Northwest Territories.

Hampton High in New Brunswick, for example, created a sustainable fishing and angling club. Teacher and project lead Hardy Cameron calls it an education in sustainability using fishing as the hook to engage students.

Projects are springing up in Canada's western



► Initiatives are popping up in every province. Jump on the bandwagon and do your part!

provinces as well. Tom Baines School in Calgary, Alberta, has done some amazing work since deciding to perform a garbage audit a few months ago. The audit showed where the school could improve its current recycling program and the grant will help purchase super-sorter, multi-compartment bins that allow more effective separation of plastics, paper and bottles or cans.

For Ryan Morgan, the teacher leading this green initiative, the project isn't just about garbage reduc-

tion. It is also a tool to educate students, parents and teachers about the problems of excessive consumption and waste.

With a truly "green" take on WWF's Green CommUnity School Grants Program, Peacock Collegiate in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan created an interactive educational vegetable garden. The garden will expand the learning and life opportunities for students with sensory and special needs, at-risk students and teen moms, by addressing hunger and providing edu-

Go ahead, apply!

Apply for a Green CommUnity School Grant online at wwf.ca/greencommunity-grants.

- Schools can apply for up to \$5,000.
- Deadline for the next round of funding is: October 2011.
- Winners will be announced in: December 2011..

cation on healthy organic foods. The learning garden has become much more than schooling – it's literally a way of life for this prairie community. WWF's grant provided funds for what's needed to prepare and plant the site and set it up, but the real elbow grease came from the students giving their time to the project, participating from seed to table.

Another great result of the Green CommUnity School Grants Program sprouts directly from its source.

The program is supported by partial proceeds from Loblaw Companies' national charge-for-plastic shopping bag program, which both funds green initiatives and helps reduce the number of plastic shopping bags in landfills.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2011**GOLF GUIDE**

► Looks like it's finally time get out on the greens ► We've asked golf expert Brian Kendall — author of *Northern Links: Canada From Tee to Tee* — to help you get in the swing

Golf: Addiction is is par for the course

 **BRIAN KENDALL**
FOR METRO

Every spring thousands of Canadians take up golf for the challenge, the health benefits, and the opportunity to spend time in gorgeous scenery with friends.

These newcomers join the more than six million

of us who already play the game, making Canada — despite our too-short playing season — one of the most avid golfing nations per capita in the world.

Golf is mystifying and frustrating, but also joyously addictive once the game has you firmly in its grip. A recent survey revealed that

golfers feel they're healthier and happier than other people. In fact, they're so hooked on the game that 81 per cent say they would pass up sex with a movie star to shoot par.

With that ringing endorsement, let's get started. Canada's fairways are calling.

Let this be a lesson

Do yourself — and everyone you'll be playing with — a big favour by taking at least a few lessons when getting started.

Lessons will save you months, if not years, of struggle by providing a firm grounding in the basics: grip, posture and swing mechanics.

Almost every course has a fully certified Canadian Professional Golfers' Association (CPGA) teaching pro on staff. Individual lessons generally cost between \$50 and \$100 an hour. Group lessons are often less expensive.

Ask golfing friends for recommendations. You're looking for a pro

with plenty of patience, enthusiasm and an ability to adapt to your needs. Most important, be sure to diligently practice what you've learned. Golf quickly becomes more chore than pleasure for novices who don't experience steady improvement.

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► What's the secret to the perfect swing? Stop thinking too much about it.

Easy does it

► The key to a perfect swing is like the pros say: Rhythm and balance ► And don't think too hard about it



BRIAN KENDALL
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

We'll leave it to your teaching pro to explain the fundamentals of the swing. But a key thought for golfers of every level is to keep it simple and in balance.

Sweet-swinging Canadian golf legend George Knudson, who won eight times on the PGA Tour, believed that most golfers

get so bound up in mechanics that they're trying to force the swing to happen rather than to simply let it happen. A relaxed, Zen-like state of mind is a key component of Knudson's philosophy.

Knudson taught that if a golfer starts in a balanced position and finishes his swing still in balance, then not a whole lot can go wrong in between.

Even simpler is the swing philosophy of our greatest amateur golfer, Marlene Stewart Streit, Canada's only member of the World Golf Hall of Fame.

"Smoothness, rhythm and balance. That's all you need," Streit says.

"If I ever write an instruction book, it will say the same thing on every page: 'Smoothness, rhythm and balance.'"

The right equipment makes all the difference

Winston Churchill described golf as "a silly game played with weapons singularly ill-suited to the purpose."

In truth, modern clubs and balls have advanced to the point where they can help even duffers hit it both longer and straighter.

But hold off for a while before spending serious money on new clubs. What if you decide golf isn't the game for you?

Instead, borrow clubs from a friend or buy an inexpensive used set to use during your initial lessons.

You'll know it's time to plunk down for new clubs



► Part of playing your best is having the right equipment.

once you're swinging in balance and hitting mostly solid shots. Even then exercise restraint. While a custom-fitted set of clubs by a top manufacturer might sell for thousands of dollars, a perfectly decent set of clubs can often

be purchased on sale for \$500 or less.

As always, seek out your pro for advice. By now he'll have a good idea of your playing potential and which clubs are best suited to your game.

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5 golf etiquette rules

► A few simple tips to help you play like a professional

BRIAN KENDALL
LIFE@METRONWS.CA

Though you may be a beginner, there's no reason why you can't comport yourself on the fairways like a seasoned pro. Here's how.

1 Avoid slow play. Always be ready to hit the ball when it's your turn. Limit yourself to one or two practice swings. Keep up with the group in front of you. And allow faster golfers to play through.

2 Silence is golden. Never talk when a partner is preparing to hit his ball. Never curse out loud after a bad shot. Turn off your damn cellphone!

3 Help maintain the course. Always fix ball marks on greens, rake bunkers and replace divots. It's the responsibility of every golfer to leave the course in the same — or even better — shape than



he or she found it.

4 Dress properly. Avoid short-shorts, T-shirts, blue jeans and halter tops. Also, for pity's sake, no golf

caps turned backwards.

5 Pick up your ball. When you've dribbled one off the tee, or failed to get out of a bunker after two or

three attempts, pick up your ball and move on. You're still too inexperienced to worry about posting a score. Anyway, there's always the next hole.

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The golf effect



BRIAN KENDALL
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

How can you not love a game that lets you burn calories while having fun in the great Canadian outdoors?

Swedish researchers found that playing four hours of golf while walking a course is comparable to a 45-minute fitness class.

And according to the Rose Center for Health and Sports Sciences in Denver, Colo., a golfer who walks 36 holes a week is burning nearly 3,000 calories.

Golf is also known to help lower harmful cholesterol levels, speed up your metabolism, improve bone

health, reduce stress and even help ward off Alzheimer's by stimulating blood circulation and improving neural pathway connections in older players.

Having trouble sleeping? Tiring yourself out while playing golf will help you fall asleep faster and remain in a deep sleep longer.

But perhaps the biggest boon of taking up golf will come from all the new friends you make.

Social intercourse is known to increase endorphins, which in turn improves an individual's mental outlook and feeling of well-being.

► Four hours of golf is as good as a fitness class.



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4
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More sports



Mathieu Corbeil has the Saint John Sea Dogs a win away from the QMJHL final. The former Halifax Mooseheads goalie started his second straight game last night and made 28 saves in a 5-2 win over the host Lewiston Maineiacs. The Sea Dogs lead the best-of-seven semifinal 3-0, with Game 4 tonight in Lewiston. The Quebec Remparts lead 2-1 in the other semifinal.



Scan code for more sports

- QMJHL commissioner hopes to sway MacKinnon's decision
- Eager for 'face-to-face' meeting with Cole Harbour family



► Nathan MacKinnon, a Cole Harbour native, will be the centre of attention leading up to the QMJHL draft in June.

Commish looks to sell MacKinnon on assets of Q



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Gilles Courteau is planning to get in Nathan MacKinnon's ear about the virtues of the Baie-Comeau Drakkar and the QMJHL.

The league's veteran commissioner told Metro he intends to meet with the MacKinnon family "face to face" in the coming weeks in an attempt to convince the top prospect to choose the Drakkar over the NCAA.

The Drakkar hold the

No. 1 pick in June's draft and have said publicly they plan to select the high-scoring centre from Cole Harbour.

"What (the Drakkar) can do for a player, it's comparable to any other team — there's no doubt," Courteau said. "The environment to support a player in his hockey development, academic development and even development as a human being ... it's an outstanding organization."

MacKinnon's father, Graham, told Metro earlier this month his son is

strongly considering the NCAA but that he hasn't shut the door to anybody, including the Drakkar.

Although the Drakkar have only finished better than .500 once in the past eight seasons, Courteau said they have consistently ranked as the league's top team from an academic perspective.

Baie-Comeau has English and French public schools, while the Drakkar employ tutors and private teachers who work 1-on-1 with the players at home and on the road.

Courteau said the QMJHL has a proven track record with elite prospects — mentioning Sidney Crosby and Brad Richards specifically — and that it deserves the MacKinnons' faith.

But until MacKinnon announces his intentions, speculation will continue to mount leading up to the draft on June 4 in Victoriaville, Que.

"No doubt in my mind, the QMJHL is the best place to play, to develop as a hockey player and as a person, as well," Courteau said.



► Edmonton Eskimos running back Brad Lester in Touchdown Atlantic 2010.

CFL touches down in Maritimes

The CFL landed in Moncton yesterday and commissioner Mark Cohon said he thinks 2011's Touchdown Atlantic matchup will be as successful as last year's.

Tickets for the Sept. 25 game between Hamilton and Calgary at Moncton Coliseum go on sale May 11, ranging in price from \$39 to \$89. Pre-sale tickets are available May 10 by registering at CFL.ca/TouchdownAtlantic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Evans puts hat in Herd coach ring

Truro Bearcats head coach and general manager Shawn Evans is among the local candidates for the Halifax Mooseheads' vacant head-coaching position.

Evans confirmed to the Truro Daily News he has applied for the job, but has "not spoken to anyone" yet.

The former Nova Scotia Oilers defenceman and one-time NHLer has helped establish the Bearcats as one of the top junior A franchises in the Maritimes. ● METRO

Baseball returning to Halifax

The Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League season will open on Friday, May 20. The Dartmouth Moosehead Dry and Halifax Pelham Canadians are among five returning teams that will play a 32-game schedule.

● METRO

Lightning prepare for 'third' Game 7 against Penguins

The Pittsburgh Penguins have the edge in playoff experience. Tampa Bay coach Guy Boucher sees it differently, saying that the Lightning have played in more Game 7s this season.

Two, in fact — both in this series.

"For us, it's been a Game 7," Boucher said yesterday. "We've been playing Game 7 hockey for the past two games, and we're not about to change our attitude."

The Lightning won each of the last two games while facing elimination, coming back from a 3-1 series deficit to tie the best-of-seven first-round series at three games apiece.

Game 7 is tonight in Pittsburgh, and this time — for the first time this post-season — the Penguins will know that a loss means the end of their season.

"We would have taken it in five or six, but we knew we were playing a good opponent," Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma said. "We knew they would respond. We knew they are a hardworking group. We know what they're good at. We fully expect to be entrenched in a battle with Tampa Bay."

The Lightning haven't even had to get into too much of a battle in winning the past two games at Consol Energy Center. In winning Games 2 and 5 there, Tampa Bay outscored the Penguins 13-3.

During a playoff season in which the road teams have won more often than those at home, will the venue matter?

It hasn't over the history of the Penguins' franchise. They are 2-5 in Game 7s at home — they've won all five they've had on the road — including losing 5-2 to Montreal in Game 7 of the second round last season, the final game ever played at the Civic Arena.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



► Brian Gionta scores on Boston's Tim Thomas last night.

Canadiens take it to 7

► Bruins' penalties come back to bite them ► Price protects lead in third

Brian Gionta and Michael Cammalleri scored during two separate two-man advantages and the Montreal Canadiens forced a decisive Game 7 in their first-round playoff series with a 2-1 victory over the Boston Bruins last night.

Dennis Seidenberg scored for Boston, which played more than half the game without ejected winger Milan Lucic, but still outshot the Canadiens 32-27.

Boston had taken the lead in the closely contested series with consecutive overtime wins, but couldn't get the equalizer behind a sharp Carey Price despite outshooting Montreal 11-6 in the third period.

It was a nervous game for both teams and referees Kevin Pollock and Chris Lee, with spotty passing and missed opportunities on both sides.

The crowd of 21,273 booed as a Montreal goal at 3:27 of the first period was disallowed due to a quick whistle. Scott

2	1
CANADIENS	BRUINS

Gomez's dump-in was misplayed by Thomas and lay clearly open beside Thomas as Gionta slipped it in the net.

Cammalleri was the catalyst for the opening goal as he threw the puck toward the Boston bench and caught them for too many men on the ice, then had his stick slashed in two by Seidenberg for a two-man advantage.

Cammalleri one-timed a P.K. Subban pass inside the near post from the right circle at 10:07.

The Bruins struck back with the teams each down one man only 48 seconds into the middle period as Seidenberg came out from behind the net and lifted

it inside the post.

Montreal got another two-man advantage when Lucic was given a major for boarding and a game misconduct for a hit from behind on Jaroslav Spacek, who turned at the last second and was cut when his face went against the glass. Only 16 seconds later, Patrice Bergeron shot

the puck over the glass for a delay of game call.

Gionta put Montreal ahead when he knocked in a rebound at 5:48.

Spacek returned later in the period and the Bruins had to juggle their lines without Lucic, who does not appear likely to face further discipline.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flyers roll to series victory

5	2
FLYERS	SABRES

Brian Boucher stopped 25 shots and the Philadelphia Flyers advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 5-2 win over the Buffalo Sabres in Game 7 of their first-round series last night.

The Flyers raced to a 4-0 lead and chased Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller in the third.

It was a switch from the rest of the series, where the Flyers had trouble in the net. They started three goalies in seven games. Boucher won Games 2 and 6 in relief, but was stout for all 60 minutes in the series clincher.

Braydon Coburn, Danny Briere, James van Riemsdyk, and Ville Leino all scored against Miller to suck the drama out of Game 7.

The Flyers surely won't complain about a rout after a series in which five of the first six games were decided by one goal.

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Engine options

All three of the Durango's trim levels — SXT, Crew Plus and Citadel — arrive with a 290-horsepower 3.6-litre V6.

Available on all but the base model is a 360-horsepower 5.7-litre "Hemi" V8 that deactivates half of its cylinders under cruise, coast and deceleration conditions, helping it achieve fuel-economy ratings of 16.6 l/100 km in city driving and 10.1 on the highway.

More space

Modifications on the 2011 Durango include extending the distance between the front and rear wheels by nearly 13 centimetres and overall length by 25 centimetres to allow space for a third-row seat.

The new Durango is now closely similar to the previous version, but is much easier to enter and exit due to its considerably less truck-like ride height.

Towing

Towing capacities will give the Durango's competitors a run for their money, especially V8 models that can pull up to 3,265 kilograms worth of boat, horse or vacation trailer.

V6 units offer a 2,800-kilogram towing capacity, which is more than the old Durango's base 3.7-litre V6 or optional 4.7-litre V8.

All-wheel-drive is standard, but exact system depends on engine choice.



► Although it's on the same platform as the new Jeep Grand Cherokee, the Dodge Durango does a great job of being its own big wagon. How can you not love the styling?

Dodge's wagon applies for reinstatement into SUV club

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONews.ca
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Once left for dead, the Dodge Durango has made a surprising comeback for 2011, after a two-year absence.

Still, it faces an uncertain future as steadily rising fuel costs could derail its return before it really gets off the ground.

Chrysler has redesigned or reformulated most of its 2011 product lineup and nowhere is that more evident than in the Durango.

The model was considered dead and buried by late 2008, but clearly Dodge had other plans.

They included building the big sport ute on a modified Jeep Grand Cherokee platform that's also being employed in the next-generation Mercedes-Benz M-Class.

The redesign has resulted in the best-looking Durango since the brand's 1998-model-year arrival.

Certainly there will always be a need for the power and passenger capacity offered by the Dodge Durango. However it remains to be seen if a two-year absence will affect its ability to make friends among the changing New World Order of sport ute fanatics.



► A rear view of the Dodge Durango.



► Overall, interior quality has taken a dramatic turn for the better in the Durango's class of vehicle, with tighter gaps and fanatical attention to detail.

Dodge Durango



What you should know about the 2011 Dodge Durango:

- **Types:** Four-door, all-wheel-drive, seven-passenger sport utility vehicle.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (290); 5.7-litre OHV V8 (360).
- **Transmission:** Five-speed automatic.
- **Points:** Rejuvenated model the most attractive Durango yet; Base V6 stronger than previous model's base V6 and V8 powerplants.
- **Stats:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 13.0/8.9 (3.6).

5 drive

By comparison

Chevrolet Traverse AWD

Base price: \$40,300
Comparable to Durango in size and fuel economy, but lacks a V8 option.



Ford Explorer 4WD

Base price: \$34,550
New-for-'11 model also loses its truck frame. A thrifty turbo I4 is optional.



Mazda CX-9 AWD

Base price: \$40,100
Sharply styled model specializes in behaving like a sedan on the road.



WHEELBASE MEDIA



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A cautious approach

▶ Honda's latest Civic is evolutionary, not revolutionary — but that's probably a good thing



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Compared to its revamped rivals like the Hyundai Elantra, Mazda 3 or upcoming Ford Focus, changes to the new 2012 Honda Civic look less revolutionary and considerably more cautious.

No visible part of the new Civic is intensely different than the outgoing model, and changes are, perhaps decidedly, careful, sensible and nearly subtle.

Ultimately, Honda's intent was delivery of a package that will appeal to new shoppers while maintaining the character of the vehicle former owners were comfortable with. Designers have played it safe here, so to speak.

Engineers have worked a bit harder. For 2012, Civic updates consist largely of a slew of tweaks rather than a complete and total overhaul. Example?

The standard 1.8-litre engine is carried over — though improvements to various components have resulted in better performance and up to a 12 per cent increase in fuel efficiency.

Transmissions are tweaked carry-overs, too. Lightweight, cost-effective five-speed units in manual or automatic are still fitted to all standard models, and a colour-changing visual "ECO" indicator to help coach drivers to save more fuel.

Driving a mid-range Civic Coupe through the streets and highways of Washington, D.C., your writer noted the same comfortably taut suspension feel, below-average suspension noise and light, and lively feel that defined the last generation car.

The standard 140-horsepower engine is quiet until pushed, emits the trademark Honda engine growl when opened up, and delivers smooth performance throughout. Even redlined, Civic's engine makes numerous competitors feel downright brash.

Inside, revised body dimensions and smaller win-



▶ The redesigned Honda Civic boasts up to a 12 per cent increase in fuel efficiency over the outgoing model.



▶ The Civic Sedan (left), is pictured alongside the Civic Coupe.

dow pillars translate to more room and better visibility, respectively — and the 2012 Civic Coupe delivers front-seat roominess similar to the sedan.

Even your writer's wide and thick frame found no issues.

As usual, Honda's interior designers have ensured there's plenty of storage all around, too. No issue stay-

ing organized on the go here.

Need more space? Civic Sedan will be the lineup's volume seller. A Hybrid Sedan variant, also improved with more power and better mileage, will hit the market later this summer.

Regardless of the model selected, Honda says the new Civic is no heavier

than the outgoing 2011 unit, and that they've added hundreds, or even thousands of dollars worth of extra value to the lineup in terms of new features, revised equipment packaging and lowered pricing.

End of the day, the new Civic feels much like the model it's replacing — just slightly tidier, more comfortable and more refined.

Owners of the last-generation Civic will feel right at home, if not slightly more comfortable and slightly less snug.

Shoppers after an exhaustive, complete overhaul aren't going to find it — but given Civic's many generations of proven performance and sales superstardom in Canada, that's probably not a bad thing.

Sporty Si

Fans of an out-of-the-box import-tuner pocket-rocket can opt for the sporty Civic Si with two or four doors and a new 2.4-litre engine that replaces the old two-litre "K20" unit from the old car.

▶ **Pros:** Lots more torque and a little more horsepower. That's 170 lb.-ft and 201 ponies, if you're counting.

▶ **Cons:** Redline falls by 1,000 RPM to 7,000 RPM.

▶ As it should, the Si still feels, looks and sounds notably more aggressive than the standard models — especially after the high-rpm VTEC cam changeover ramps up power output and sound effects. Drivers can now "watch" the process via a multistage "i-VTEC" indicator on the digital instrument cluster.

PHOTOS BY JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO



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NEW YORK SHOW ACKNOWLEDGES GAS PRICE ANGST

AUTO PILOT



MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

Lots of all-new and semi-new vehicles made their debuts at this week's New York Auto Show.

Many addressed the gas price thing head on. And if they didn't, they stood out

like a sore thumb.

Lucky thing for those "sore thumb" types, however, that they look pretty darn cool, and in some cases, break-your-heart cool. So it's hard to stay mad at them.

Witness the new 2012 Chrysler 300 SRT8 with a

new HEMI V8 rated at 465 hp and 465 lb-ft of torque, and the new 2012 Jaguar XKR-S, with 550 hp and a top speed of 186 mph.

The Scion FR-S Concept is a little more socially responsible, with its flat-four engine, but it's still more geared toward outright joy

than outright fuel economy.

But now on to some random thoughts on "The Other Guys," the NY debuts that have some new weaponry, to battle the high-gas-price forces.

Balancing power with fuel efficiency

Used to be, every time a car got redesigned, it ended up being bigger, heavier and more powerful — which always hurt the fuel efficiency cause. These days, automakers are holding back the power increases to make sure their vehicles hit certain fuel efficiency targets. In the U.S. the magic fuel efficiency number seems to be 40 mpg (about 5.9 L/100 km). At New York, we welcomed three more new models into the elite 40-mpg club — 2012 Honda Civic HF, 2012 Kia Rio Sedan and 2012 Mazda3.

The new 2012 Versa Sedan, also introduced at New York, is not far behind, at 37 mpg.

Auto-start is staring up
The new Rio employs an auto-start system, which shuts the engine down whenever it is at idle, and immediately starts the engine as soon the brake pedal is released. Another show debutant, the newly revised 2012 Chevrolet Malibu, also gets this feature.

While it has been prevalent in Europe for a few years now, North America is just starting to get with

the auto-start program. Expect lots of cars to get this gas-saving feature in the coming months, and years.

Big vehicle, small motor
Americans have spoken. They will mostly remain in the vehicle size they have now, even if gas prices are scary.

Going down a vehicle size is not an option for them, because they have big highways, big stuff to haul around, and generally big bodies. So they're looking for more efficient powertrain options in those generously sized vehicles.

Ford is right on this case, first introducing a 4-cylinder option in the Explorer, and now adding this same 2.0-litre turbo engine option to the newly-revised 2012 Taurus line (which had its coming out party at New York).

Small car chic

We're continuing to see more small cars that are more than just cheap transportation.

They're also cool to look at and cool to drive.

The new VW Beetle was simultaneously introduced at the New York and Shanghai auto shows, and eschews a bit of cuteness for more sporty pretensions. Okay by me.

The Fiat 500C, a convertible-like version of the 500, also broke cover at New York, and, just looking at it, makes me want to down a cappuccino.

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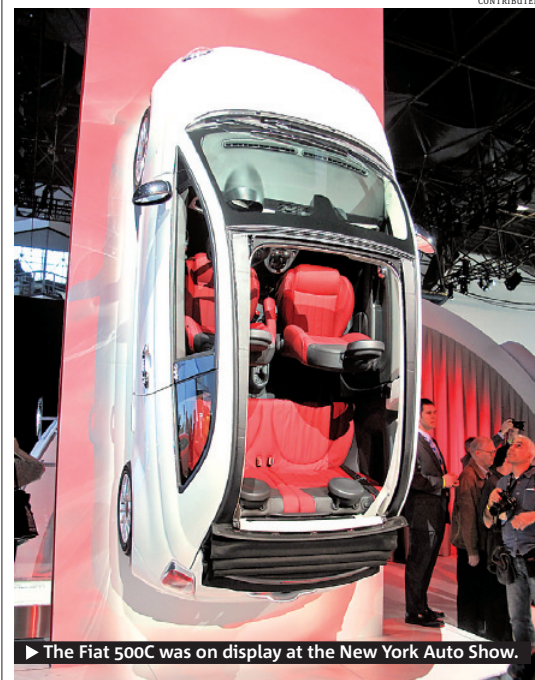
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A used hatch from across the pond

► Astra was short lived, but loved for efficiency

SECOND GEAR



JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

What's the 4-1-1

- **Model:** 2008 to 2009 Saturn Astra
- **Vehicle Type:** 3 or 5-door hatchback
- **Approximate used price range:** \$9,000 to \$14,000

Putting off regular maintenance could cost you much more in the long run.

Now that MVIs are every two years, vehicle owners have a lot longer to let little issues compound into bigger issues before they are forced to fix them. By being proactive with your car's maintenance, you can save money in the short term, and avoid some big problems – and even bigger expenses – down the road.



Regular maintenance will keep your car in top operating condition, which will:

- increase safety
- save you money on fuel
- extend the life of your car
- reduce your long-term maintenance costs and
- minimize harmful exhaust emissions

Here are just a few key tips to keep in mind:

Get your car serviced regularly

A mechanic will check your brakes, tires, fluids, filters and other key areas to make sure that your car runs optimally.

Read your owner's manual Your owner's manual has a very useful section on maintenance specific to your vehicle, clearly outlining the maintenance schedule you should follow, whether it is kilometre or time specific.

Talk to your dealer's service department They can put you on a regular maintenance program, and they'll even call to remind you when it's time for your next servicing.

Continue regular servicing after warranty People tend to do a good job at keeping their car regularly maintained during the warranty period, but after the warranty is up, people often forgo their regular check-ups.

At the end of the day, a regularly maintained vehicle will also be a safer and more reliable vehicle for you, your family and everyone who shares the road.

Did you know?

A poorly maintained vehicle can boost fuel consumption by up to 15 percent, according to Natural Resources Canada.

We could cut smog emissions such as nitrogen oxide emissions by 12 percent and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 30 percent if everyone maintained their cars regularly, states Environment Canada.

A well-maintained vehicle is also safer, more reliable and could be worth more when it comes time to sell or trade it in.



With the intention of answering thousands of shoppers screaming for European product in Canadian showrooms, GM started re-badging the Opel Astra with a Saturn badge and shipping units over from across the pond for the 2008 model year.

The resulting Saturn Astra was a 3 or 5-door hatchback with four-cylinder power and front-wheel drive that largely hit the mark where ride quality, handling, interior execution and styling were concerned. Thing is, right as Astra was gearing up to be a hit, a recession, bankruptcy protection and a storm of economic nastiness befell the automaker, and the subsequent decision to give the Saturn brand its pink slip killed the Astra off after just two model years.

Looking for a 2008 or 2009 Astra? All models got a 1.8-litre, four-cylinder ECOTEC engine paired with a four-speed automatic or the recommended five-speed manual. The manual gearbox offers the most opportunity for drivers to maximize Astra's 138 horsepower.

Astra was sold in a basic "XE" trim level, and a more loaded "XR" model, too.

What Owners Like

Tight handling, fuel efficiency, styling, flexibility and ride comfort are typically highly rated by Astra owners. Those with a manual-equipped model tend to rate the shifter and clutch highly, too. In all, Astra is largely described as cheerful, upscale and fun to drive.

What Owners Hate

Complaints tend to centre around the lack of a standard centre armrest, as well as poor rearward visibility, small steering-wheel audio controls and an initially-confusing stereo sys-

tem.

Common Issues

Online, owner-stated reliability is somewhat limited thanks to the Astra's short lifespan — though a used model has a few things going for it right off the bat.

In addition to what looks to be a very pleasing driving experience, GM's 160,000 kilometre powertrain warranty should provide shoppers with plenty of confidence. With five years of coverage, many used Astra models will have a great deal of warranty coverage remaining.

Be sure to double and triple-check the air conditioner for proper operation, as several owners have reported problems with the system "pulsing" or working intermittently.

Note that a check engine light and reduced engine power could be the result of a bad engine sensor, and that a "scan" of the engine computer for stored codes could reveal potential problems on this front too.

The Verdict

A used Astra, especially with a large remaining portion of GM's warranty, should prove a confident, enjoyable used hatch.



Call your dealer to keep your vehicle running smoothly and safely down the road.


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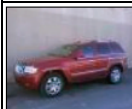
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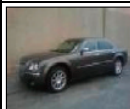
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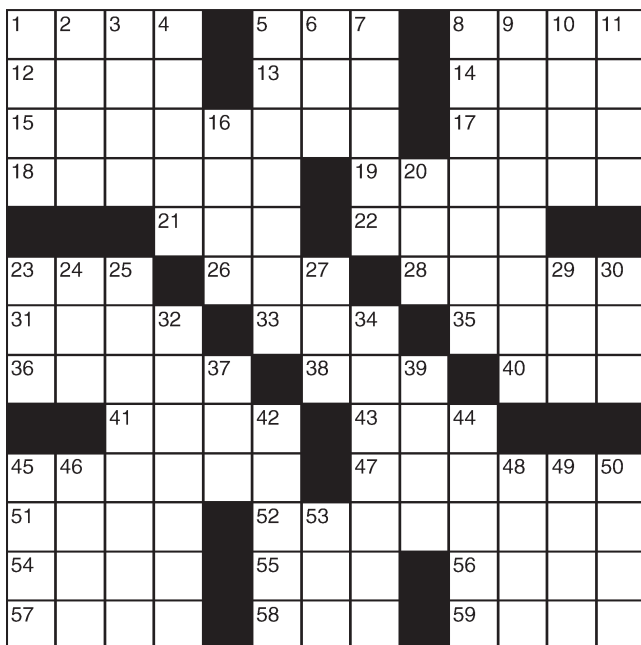
Crossword

Across

- 1 Disarray
- 5 Drunkard
- 8 MacDonald's place
- 12 Year-end celebration
- 13 Lawyers' org.
- 14 Dunkable treat
- 15 Hiker's energy source
- 17 Bellow
- 18 Mingle (with)
- 19 Sequentially
- 21 Pitching stat
- 22 Replaces divots
- 23 Fool
- 26 Wet wriggler
- 28 Handle skillfully
- 31 Comestibles
- 33 Lair
- 35 Inside picture?
- 36 Potato, for one
- 38 Have a bug
- 40 That woman
- 41 Harvest
- 43 Mai — (cocktail)
- 45 Asian capital
- 47 Buccaneer
- 51 Brewery products
- 52 Temporary solution
- 54 French meat entree
- 55 Trojans' sch.
- 56 Sea eagle
- 57 Charon's river
- 58 "A mouse!"
- 59 Iditarod team

Down

- 1 Legend
- 2 Modern money
- 3 Thick chunk
- 4 River through Paris
- 5 Did a springy Brazil-

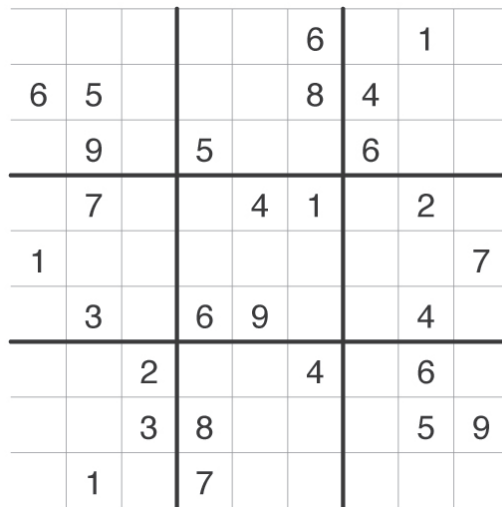


- 10 Ca-boose's place
- 11 Early hours
- 16 Traditional tales
- 20 Promptly
- 23 Astern
- 24 Not worth a —
- 25 AA goal
- 27 Meadow
- 29 — di-dah
- 30 Coloring agent
- 32 Discard
- 34 Argue over trifles
- 37 "Norma —"
- 39 Secular
- 42 Irritate
- 44 Annoyed
- 45 Sailors
- 46 Greatly
- 48 Roundish do
- 49 Chime sound
- 50 Former partners
- 53 Work with

► Yesterday's answer



Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►

7	1	9	8	2	5	6	4	3
5	3	4	7	6	1	8	2	9
6	8	2	3	4	9	1	7	5
4	9	6	5	8	2	7	3	1
1	2	7	9	3	4	5	8	6
3	5	8	6	1	7	4	9	2
2	4	5	1	9	8	3	6	7
8	6	1	2	7	3	9	5	4
9	7	3	4	5	6	2	1	8

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My Rockstar Lover, I can't believe we've made it this far. I'm so happy I've spent the last 2 years of my life with you, i wouldn't have asked for it any other way! My unconditional love for you deepens more each day. You are my world and i am yours forever and eternally!!! Paddle Paddle xo From YOUR ROSALEE

Darling, Thinking about you today is making me smile. I treasure our past and can't wait for our future together. I love you, don't ever forget that.Yay fun extravaganzas! From LEPRESEAN

Huishan, Our relationship blossomed from the moment I laid my eyes on you and spoke to you in another language. You & I are going strong for 8 years and counting; I am so grateful for every day that you are in my life. I love you. GELINO

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 You need to be a lot more flexible, especially in your career.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The emotional bruises you get today will be balanced by the knowledge that they're helping you in some way.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You will have a profound effect on those around you today.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You will be tempted to have words with those who only seem to complain. Why don't you?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23 Put your mind to it and you'll find ways to make sense of something that didn't make sense before.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22 It's okay to be outspoken but don't expect others to just sit there and take it.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Make an effort to get along with others. You'll accomplish a lot.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Stop trying to make it appear as if you're in control of every and every situation.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

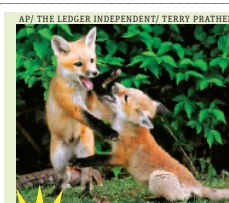
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 There seems to be tension in the air. You need to defuse the situation. Start by not judging.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Maybe it's time to start looking around for new opportunities. Your talent is in demand.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Today, you'll have the energy to get things done quickly.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Be honest with loved ones today, even at the risk of upsetting them. **SALLY BROMPTON**

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